

*The Bell Collection of Reptiles.**To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

Oxford, Dec. 16, 1872.

GENTLEMEN,—With reference to the correspondence which has appeared in the recent numbers of the ‘Annals’ relative to the Bell Collection of Reptiles, and with the view of enabling your readers to form a proper opinion upon the subject, I think it incumbent upon me to state:—that the negotiation for the purchase of the entire collection, on behalf of the Rev. F. W. Hope, was effected by myself with Prof. Bell in 1862; that an estimation of the extent of the collection and of the value thereof was made by Mr. S. Stevens, the Natural-History Agent; that the purchase comprised 288 specimens of tortoises (either entire or shells), about 40 dried snakes and lizards, and 1065 reptiles of various kinds in spirits; and that the collection was immediately removed by Mr. Rowell to Oxford, where it was partially arranged during the last year by Dr. Günther, of the British Museum.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. O. WESTWOOD.

Answer to Herr Ritsema's "Note on Crinodes Sommeri" &c.

By A. G. BUTLER, F.L.S. &c.

A simultaneous attack upon a new genus, in two different magazines, is calculated to impress one with the idea that the discoverer of the supposed error must have been anxious that his acumen should be widely recognized. As an answer to the entirely unwarranted supposition contained in the said paragraph, I need merely inform Herr Ritsema of one or two facts, which, had he studied my writings, he might have discovered for himself: Hübner's ‘Sammlung’ has been almost constantly on my table for the last seven years; and I know his figures as well as I know my own.

I do not make a practice of hunting up every conceivable resemblance in pattern between a new genus and those previously figured in works known to me; I content myself, at most, with a comparison of structure between closely allied forms*.

I did refer in my paper to the genus *Dudusa* (inadvertently written *Duduna*), a group to which *C. Sommeri* probably belongs†; I had examined two species of this genus, and therefore could speak with confidence of its relationship to *Tarsolipsis*.

If Hübner was not attached to the “type system” there is no reason why *C. clara* of Cramer should not stand as the type of the genus *Crino* quite as much as *C. Sommeri*.

* When describing *Tarsolepis*, I knew for certain that the structure before me was entirely new. I admit that I did not remember at the time that Hübner's *Crino Sommeri* was so similar in pattern; had I done so, I might have referred to it as a moth resembling mine in pattern, although clearly belonging to a different genus.

† The females of *Dudusa* have a zone of spatulate scales round the tail, but of only half the length of those in the males; the antennæ are moderately pectinated, more so than in *Crinodes*; but there are no tufts of long hairs at the base of the abdomen in either sex.